

ZENAS ROSS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Article researched to obtain source name and date of publication
Charles George James ROSS U.E. #VIC8694-95

The recent passing of Lester Ross, retired school teacher of this city, and Mrs. Catherine Badgley of Thurlow, calls to mind that with one or two exceptions, notably Mrs. Thomas Smith, Melrose, sister of Lester, they were the last of their generation of the descendants of Zenas Ross, U.E., and his wife, Rachel, daughter of Simeon and Sarah Wright of Union, Conn., latter of Rutland, Vt., still later of St. Johns, Que., and finally grantees and residents of Fredericksburg. A partial list of those of the later generations of this family, tracing back to this couple, may be of general interest and indicate some relationships which may not be known even to some of the persons named therein.

The exact dates of Zenas' birth, marriage and death are not of record. Rachel's father, Captain Simeon Wright commanded a company during the American Revolution and Zenas was a private therein as was also Wait Wright, a brother of Rachel. He is shown with Zenas as on a scout against Ticonderoga and later to Crown Point in 1780. This was after the points mentioned fell into rebel hands after Burgoyne's defeat in 1777. Both were with Major Rogers on the King's Rangers and as the tide of war went against the British they moved over into Lower Canada, at St. Johns where Zenas on November 11th, 1782, is shown as an arrival and on July 24, 1783, the ration list shows his wife, two children over six and two under six years old. (See Haldmand Papers, Public Archives of Canada, Series M, Vol. 327, page 196 and Series B, Vol. 166, page 142). In 1784 Zenas was at Cataract and from there he took up various grants of land, the last, with his two older sons, Wait and William (grandfather of Mrs. Ira Badgley) in July 1797. (See Land Petitions, Upper Canada R. 92.)

The family of Zenas Ross the first consisted of seven children: Wait, whose family is not traced and who apparently drew land and settled in Durham County; Rachel, who married Michael Dafeo from Albany, New York, and Pownal, Vermont, living later in or near Belleville; William, who married Catherine Olcott and lived in Thurlow; Dorcas, who married John Bush and settled with him in Sidney; Leonard, who married Sophia Jane Davis of Adolphustown and lived and died in Thurlow, both being buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery; Zenas second who lived also in Durham County, and Margaret who married Solomon Wright and lived in Hope township, Durham

lom N., who moved to Owosso, Michigan and left a large family of whom the oldest now living is Sarah M., widow of J. Allan Ketchapaw. This family is widely distributed over the States today. Elias C., the next son died in 1918 and Mrs. Myrtle Lohnes, Frankford, is the survivor of that family. Sarah Jane, the next daughter and Harrison, the next son, never married and lived and died, respectively, in 1918 and 1909 at the Thurlow farm. George G., the next son, left one daughter, May, wife of J. Frank Dixon of Lindsay. Catherine, the next daughter, became Mrs. Ira Badgley, recently deceased. Her son, William N., lives on the old homestead. The tenth child and next son, James W., better known as Jay, sometime member of Thurlow council and twice married, the second time to Edith, daughter of Alex. Sills. This family still live in Belleville where J. W. died in 1904. Mary E., the youngest of the family, married Wm. Sager and died in 1918 leaving two daughters. Mrs. Ethel Kahn and Mrs. Florence Chase, both resident in St. Paul, Minn.

4. Mary C. Ross married Jacob Palmer and the family consisted of Leonard, Cannifton blacksmith, and local preacher, whose sons were Zenas, John L., and Peter; Zenas, who married Catherine Canniff; several daughters and Sidmer who married his cousin, Mary Ann Fairman, and lived in Prince Edward. These are referred to later under another division. A daughter of Mary, Catherine, married J. Rosevear, Cannifton.

5. Catherine Ross, born 1807, became Mrs. Caleb Garrison. Their first daughter was Mrs. Nelson Brown, and on his death she married Stewart Ruttan. Next was Nancy, Mrs. Lyman Wheeler whose family still centres at Stirling, where she died 1917. Mary Ann became Mrs. John Bonisteel of Sidney, mother of Milton and Sheldon. William H., the oldest son, married Nancy Gilbert and retained the homestead still in the possession of his son, Frank, on the fourth of Thurlow. The daughter, Catherine, married Peter Belnap and the second son, George W., married Samantha Clapp, resided next to Salem Church on the fourth of Tyendinaga, and left two daughters, Catherine of Vancouver, and Della of Los Angeles. Rachel Garrison married William H. Sheffield and was the mother of Arthur and Earl Sheffield of Halloway and Cannifton. Sarah Jane married Albert Davis and on his death married Albert Parks.

In St. John's Church, Bath, Feb.

THE ONTARIO INTELLIGENCER - THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1933

Page 1 of 2

ZENAS ROSS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

The recent passing of Lester Ross, lom N., who moved to Owosso, Mich.

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
File # 2678

at the home farm. This family consisted of Phillander, who, by his marriage with Amelia Foster was the father of Mrs. Charles Meyers of Bayside, Henry R. Ross of Saint John, N.B. and Mrs. Murney Clapp of Thrasher's Corners; Mary Jane, who married George Ransom of Sandusky, Ohio, and died there in 1893 leaving two sons: Ross, who married Rosalie Badgley, daughter of Catherine Ross and Ira Badgley; and Webster H., resident in Spokane, Washington. The third daughter was Harriet, who married Isaac N. Robinson, of Tyendinaga, and died there in 1932 leaving Fred A. Robinson on the homestead, Mrs. Harry Farnsworth, Stirling, and Clement in Manitoba.

The fourth child of Leonard was Jane Della, who married Peter W. Merritt and resided at Port Lambton, Ontario. There was one son, John Ross, who died 1921 and left three sons resident in Detroit, Michigan—Sylvester, Harvey and Frederick.

County. Of these Wait, Rachel, William and Dorcas were born before or during the Revolution and are the four children listed in the Archives. Leonard, Zenas and Margaret were born in Fredericksburg. Zenas first died about 1807. The entry in the (U.E.L.) list, published in 1884, is not exactly correct. It says: "Rose, Zenas—Fredericksburgh. soldier. King's Rangers, Gen. Haldimand 1784, 100 acres, his widow." His application dated June 18, 1797, disarms that entry.

As stated above the family of Wait Ross has not yet been traced. Rachel Ross was the second wife of Michael Dafoe, and, strangely, the given name of his first wife was also Rachel (Holdcomb). Four children are known to be of the second family; Mary, who married Manuel Northrup of Belleville; Elizabeth who married Joshua Miller of Pickering township, and Rachel who married Jacob VanNorman of Amellsburg. These later families have not been traced.

1. The family of Wm. and Catherine Olcott Ross consisted of: Rhoda Roxena, born 1798, married Joseph Haight. Their eldest daughter married John Huffman and their oldest daughter Melissa married John Huffman. John and William McCreary of Tyendinaga, are of that family, also inter-married with the Halls. Marvel Haight, the second son, left a son Benson, whose family consisted in part of Mrs. P. D. Shorey and Marvel Haight, as the present generation. A daughter, Catherine, married Benj. Clapp and one of their daughters was Mrs. James Beckett, well known in his day as a carpenter and mover of buildings. James C. Haight married Esther Thornton and their daughter is Mrs. Emily Asselstine, 73, living still on Victoria Avenue. Elizabeth Haight married Lewis Clapp and Emmeline O. married Thomas Badgley, the grandfather of Mrs. Earl Sheffield of Cannifton. Rachel Haight married S. Gunsolus, and Charles the youngest child, Phoebe Clark.

2. Marvel, the second child and oldest son of William married Hester Brown and they reared a family of eight. James' descendants include the family of Mrs. Snarr of Rawdon; Mrs. John Cole, Blessington—James, Charles and Theda Bell, wife of Robert Miller. John T. left Harford now of Plainfield. Mary was Mrs. George Snider of Thurlow, no family, Walter Snider being an adopted son. Gilbert married Sarah Jones and left one son, James, still resident on the fourth of Tyendinaga, just past the Thurlow line. Philip married Letitia Ann Beatty, still resident with her daughter, Mrs. Charles Macfarlane of Melrose. Dorland married Alzina Badgley and their son Marvel, died early in life leaving one son Dorland. Two daughters, Roxena and Elsie died young.

3. Zenas third, married Elizabeth (Polly) Brown, presumably a sister of Mrs. Marvel, and likewise of John, father of Marvel George and James Brown of Thurlow. The oldest son was William B., who married Ellen Ketchapaw. He died 1914 in Thurlow. Next was Absa-

21. 1803, Dorcas Ross became the wife of John Bush and from this marriage sprang a long line of descendants now widely scattered. Locally we have John A. Bush and Sidney, a son of John and Margaret (Thrasher) Bush, he being the son of Henry, fifth child of John the first and Dorcas Ross. The family of Franklin Bush live in Murray. There are eleven children of John and Dorcas (Ross) Bush dealt with in some detail in "Pioneer Days on the Bay of Quinte," but without dates enabling them to be traced in exact order.

Leonard Ross, the first child of Zenas first and Rachel Wright to be born in Canada married October 29th, 1811, Sophia Jane Davis of Adolphustown, daughter of Henry and Fanny (Campbell) Davis, Henry being like Zenas Ross, one of the King's Rangers and Fanny, the daughter of Lt. Alex. Campbell of the 42nd. Black Watch Regiment. They settled on the fourth of Thurlow. Their first child was Mary Ann, born 1814. She married in 1833 Daniel Fairman and they lived on the fifth of Thurlow where Gilead post office first was. To them were born five children:

1. Anson, married Mahala Milligan and died in 1867 at 34 years, leaving three children, resident in Prince Edward.

2. Margaret Orillia married Sidmer McMullen, lived in Rednersville. No family.

3. Maria Jane, married Sidmer Palmer, previously referred to. They had five children; Charles; Elma May married Samuel Munroe, Adam married Annie Jenks, at present blacksmith in Belleville; Calista, married, and their daughter, Keitha became Mrs. Victor Bongard; Frances married Ernest Thompson, Picton, where with the survivors of a family of ten, now all married, she still resides.

4. Leonard married Emma Morden, lived in Trenton, family of five, including Daniel and Fred, still with the C.N.R. there.

5. Henry Atwood, born 1845, married Madeleine Temple Allison, lived on the homestead until late years, died 1927 at Foxboro. One daughter, Mrs. Robinson A. Morton, Foxboro.

William third, was the second child of Leonard. He married Jane Simpkins and died in Tyendinaga 1886. This family also was large and of local prominence beyond most. Merritt, the eldest lived in Hamilton, Ont. Samantha became Mrs. Samuel Geddes. Alwilda married James McLaren and was the mother respectively of Mrs. George English; Mrs. Walter Townsend; Peter McLaren, present Liberal candidate for East Hastings and a former warden; William, a former reeve of Tyendinaga; Christine, Mrs. Wallace Salisbury of Belleville, and Ross, farmer in Tyendinaga. Mary Ann, the next daughter, became Mrs. Thomas Smith of Melrose and she must today be the oldest, if not the last living of her generation, born in 1851. The youngest of this family was Lester Ross who died this winter at 71 years.

Henry Davis Ross, born August, 1818, married Maria L. Sheffield of Thurlow and lived and died (1893)

Allan Zenas was the youngest of Leonard's family, born 1822. He married Henrietta Haddock and there was a family of three. The survivors of this branch are Mrs. George Riley, Vancover, and Mrs. Louis E. Borden, Nelson, B.C., physician and member of legislature for Nelson, their given names being Etha and Pearl. Elizabeth Ross, daughter of the Bordens, married G. Horton in 1932 and lives also at Nelson.

It may safely be assumed that since, for brevity's sake, references have been confined herein to persons now living, as members of the various branches of these families sprung from the old Loyalist couple, readers of these notes will find some relationships that are not generally known. Interested persons may examine a detailed list in the Ontario Archives, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.